

the drought affected districts. Activities included installation of new tube wells, completion of on-going rural water supply schemes, repair of handpumps, deployment of vans for maintenance of tube wells, supply through tankers, distribution of water through installation of plastic moulded tanks, etc. Regarding supply of fodder to drought affected areas of Orissa, State Government distributed 1,250 MT cattle feed in drought affected areas of the State.

Anomaly in distribution of Central funds to States

1911. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that States performing poorly are receiving large Central funds even though they are not able to respond to the Central assistance with their own matching grants;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the poverty indicators show further deterioration in these States;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to rectify the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) In case States fail to contribute their share, an amount corresponding to the shortfall is deducted by the Ministry of Rural Development from the Central funds at the time of release of subsequent instalment.

(b) to (d) The percentage of rural poor in the country has been estimated to have declined to 27.07% in 1999-2000 from 37.27% in the year 1993-94.